

**Highlights In This Report**

**Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production  
Average Prices Received by Farmers  
Cattle and Calves Predator Loss  
U.S. Farm Labor & Wage Rates**

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during April totaled 1.3 million pounds, down 13 percent from March, but unchanged from the previous year.

There were 1,400 head of **cattle** slaughtered during April, down 200 head from both March, and the previous year. Average live weight was 817 pounds, down 13 pounds from the previous month, and 63 pounds below April 2000. Total live weight at 1.1 million pounds was 13 percent below the previous month, and 18 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during April totaled 700 head, up 100 head from March, but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 506 pounds, down 31 pounds from March, but 20 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight at 332 thousand pounds was up 6 percent from March, but 18 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during April totaled 2,600 head, down 200 head from both March, and April 2000. Average live weight was 211 pounds, down 28 pounds from March, but 14 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 543 thousand pounds, down 20 percent from March, and 2 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during April was 200 head, down 100 head from March, but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 97 pounds, down 15 pounds from the previous month, and 9 pounds below the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.51 billion pounds in April, up 1 percent from the 3.47 billion pounds produced in April 2000.

April 2000 contained 20 weekdays and 5 Saturdays. April 2001 contained 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

**Comparing April 2001 with April 2000**

**Beef production**, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.71 million head, down 2 percent from April 2000. The average live weight was down 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,186 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 15 million pounds, 9 percent below April a year ago which was the previous record low of 17 million pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 74,300 head, down 8 percent from April 2000. The average live weight was 3 pounds below last year, at 340 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.53 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.83 million head, 8 percent above April 2000. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 20 million pounds, was down 14 percent from April 2000, and 1 million pounds below the previous low from 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 290,400 head, 16 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 4 pounds from April a year ago.

January-April red meat production was 14.6 billion pounds, 3 percent below the comparable figure a year ago. Using comparable figures from last year, beef production was 6 percent lower, veal production was 7 percent lower, pork production was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was 8 percent lower.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	March		April		January - April		April		January - April
	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	Number, thousand head					Number, thousand head			
Cattle	1.6	1.6	1.4	7.5	6.1	2,783.4	2,714.3	11,787.8	11,214.1
Calves	0.6	0.8	0.7	3.9	2.5	80.5	74.3	371.1	328.4
Hogs	2.8	2.8	2.6	13.3	11.0	7,227.4	7,831.9	32,266.1	32,405.2
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.2	0.2	1.4	1.0	345.3	290.4	1,268.0	1,130.7
	Total live weight, thousand pounds					Total live weight, thousand pounds			
Cattle	1,297	1,382	1,129	6,330	5,035	3,344,879	3,218,254	14,356,764	13,566,108
Calves	313	406	332	1,840	1,260	27,658	25,245	119,611	107,641
Hogs	680	555	543	2,833	2,473	1,897,915	2,072,103	8,456,099	8,561,997
Sheep & Lambs	28	19	16	133	102	47,124	40,602	174,716	160,966
	Average live weight, pounds					Average live weight, pounds			
Cattle	830	880	817	844	825	1,202	1,186	1,218	1,207
Calves	537	486	506	472	504	343	340	322	328
Hogs	239	197	211	213	225	263	265	262	264
Sheep & Lambs	112	106	97	95	102	136	140	138	142
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
Red meat	1.5	1.3	1.3	6.3	5.7	3,465	3,507	15,069	14,602

## United States Prices Received Index Increases 2 Percent

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May was 102 based on 1990-92= 100, up 2.0 percent from the April index. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, broilers, and peaches more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, milk, cotton, and asparagus. These marketing changes accounted for all of the May index increase. Higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, hogs, and hay offset price decreases for strawberries, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes.

Compared with May 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 4.1 percent higher. Price increases from May 2000 for cattle, lettuce, hogs, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for oranges, milk, cantaloupes, and strawberries.

## United States Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The May Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 119 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from April, but 3.5 percent above May 1999. Lower prices in May for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, feed concentrates, and insecticides were offset by higher prices for hay and forages and feed grains.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	May 2000	April 2001	May 2001 1/	May 2000	April 2001	May 2001 1/
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushels	5.27	4.30	4.37	5.19	4.22	4.33
Rice, per cwt	5.89	5.59	6.01	5.63	5.59	5.67
Upland Cotton, per pound	.470	.498	2/ .513	.476	.435	2/ .431
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	N/A	N/A	N/A	91.00	94.80	106.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt	51.00	54.60	54.00	69.40	75.60	72.70
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	81.00	85.60	83.00	73.20	79.60	76.20
Cows, per cwt	37.50	41.90	41.00	38.90	43.30	43.40
Calves, per cwt	98.70	102.00	99.00	107.00	111.00	112.00
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.340	.390	.400
Eggs, all, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.520	.665	.553
Milk, all, per cwt 3/	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.00	14.40	15.40

1/Mid-month. 2/Based on sales during the first half of the month. 3/Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. NA = Not Available

## United States Cattle and Calves Predator Loss

**Cattle and Calf** losses from animal predators in the United States totaled 147,000 head during 2000. This estimate excludes Alaska. This resulted in a loss to farmers and ranchers of \$51.6 million due to predators.

Coyotes caused the majority of cattle and calf losses to predators. They accounted for 64.6 percent of the total head lost. Dogs were the second leading cause of predator losses, accounting for 17.7 percent.

Use of non-lethal predator controls is also highlighted in this publication. Farmers and ranchers throughout the United States spent \$184.9 million on non-lethal methods to prevent predator loss of cattle and calves.

This report is released as a cooperative effort between the National Agricultural Statistics Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services.

### Losses of Cattle and Calves: Number of Head and Total Value, United States, 2000<sup>1</sup>

Predator	Number of Head	% of Total Predators	Total Value
	-----Number-----	-----Percent-----	-----1,000 Dollars-----
Coyotes	95,000	64.6	31,754
Dogs	26,000	17.7	9,547
Mountain Lions & Bobcats <sup>2</sup>	11,000	7.5	4,334
Bears	2,800	1.9	1,804
Wolves	1,600	1.1	1,030
All Other Animals	10,600	7.2	3,168
<b>United States</b>	<b>147,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51,637</b>

1/Totals may not add due to rounding. Cattle includes all cows, bulls, steers, and heifers weighing over 500 pounds. This includes beef and milk breeds as well as cattle on feed. Calves include beef and milk breed steers, heifers, and bulls weighing less than 500 pounds. 2/Includes cougars, pumas, and lynx.

### Losses of Cattle and Calves by Predators, by Selected States and United States

Selected States	Cattle	Percent of U.S.	Calves	Percent of U.S.
	-----Head-----	-----Percent-----	-----Head-----	-----Percent-----
Alabama	800	3.8	3,700	2.9
Arkansas	500	2.4	2,800	2.2
Georgia	500	2.4	5,400	4.3
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Mississippi	200	1.0	3,800	3.0
Oklahoma	700	3.3	6,800	5.4
Tennessee	400	1.9	4,100	3.3
Texas	2,800	13.3	22,000	17.5
<b>United States</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## United States Farm Labor & Wage Rates

Item	Delta 1/			United States		
	April 2000	January 2001	April 2001	April 2000	January 2001	April 2001
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	29	17	34	1,057	856	1,019
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	217	165	215
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	29	17	34	840	691	804
150 Days or More	21	15	28	633	573	627
149 Days or Less	8	2	6	207	118	177
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	37.3	33.5	45.5	40.4	37.3	40.2
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	\$7.06	\$7.73	\$7.09	\$8.09	\$8.66	\$8.31
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$6.53	\$7.56	\$6.55	\$7.54	\$7.76	\$7.61
Livestock	\$7.04	\$6.62	\$7.34	\$7.58	\$8.07	\$8.01

1/Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. —Data not published.

### United States Farm Labor

There were 1.02 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 8-14, 2001, down 4 percent from a year ago. There were 804,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 215,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 8.9 percent of the April 2001 hired workforce compared with 8.5 percent in April 2000.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.31 per hour during the April 2001 survey week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.61 per hour, up 7 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned \$8.01 per hour compared with \$7.58 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate was up 16 cents from last year.

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